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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : 10/541,520

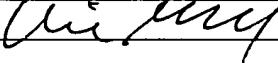
Confirmation No. 2010

Applicants : Edward R. Burns, John C. McKitrick, and Ding Wen Wu

Filed : January 8, 2004 (International filing date)

Docket No. : 96700/1029

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND REPLY TO NOTIFICATION OF MISSING REQUIREMENTS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371 IN THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment and Reply is in response to the Notification of Missing Requirements Under 35 U.S.C. 371 in the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) dated February 17, 2006 in the above-identified patent application. Applicants also request a one-month extension of time for this Preliminary Amendment and Reply, and enclose the \$60.00 fee for the extension of time with the enclosed check. With that extension of time, this Preliminary Amendment and Reply is due May 17, 2006 and is timely filed.

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Oath or Declaration

Applicants enclose a Declaration of the inventors, in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.497(a) and (b).

Appl. No. 10,541,520
Amdt. dated May 11, 2006
Reply to Notification of Missing Requirements dated February 17, 2006

Information Disclosure Statement

Enclosed herewith are Forms PTO/SB/08A (1 page) and PTO/SB/08B (1 page) and copies of the 4 non-US patent references listed on Form PTO/SB/08B.

Amendments

Please enter the following amendments before calculating the claim fees.